



Halloween Safety "Trick or Treat"

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

Ghosts, goblins, and ghouls will soon be coming out all over the area. Halloween is a festive occasion that we need to celebrate safely.

Traditional jack-o-lanterns with candles are a tremendous fire hazard. A better way to light up your jack-o-lantern is to use a small string of Holiday lights with yellow and red flashing bulbs. Additionally, small battery-powered candles can be used.

You've now created a "fire safe" jack-o-lantern that will send a chill down every goblin's spine.

If your children are preparing to go trick-or-treating, take these safety precautions:

- 1) Make sure all costumes are flame retardant. Most commercial costumes are made of flame-retardant material and you should ask your fabric shop for flame-retardant material if you make your own costume.
- 2) Make sure your children can see and be seen. Expand the eye holes in commercial masks to improve peripheral vision. Add reflective tape to costumes to make them more visible to motorists.
- 3) Ensure that each trick-or-treater has a working flashlight.
- 4) Tell the children to remove their masks and look both ways before they cross a street.
- 5) Never let a group of children trick-or-treat alone. Adult supervision is a safety "must" during Halloween.
- 6) Trick-or-treat only at homes of people you know.
- 7) Instruct children never to eat candy or treats until they return home.
- 8) When your child gets home, inspect all the candies and fruits. Slice open the fruit to look for strange odors or any signs that the fruit has been altered or tampered with. Dispose of any treat that is unwrapped or appears to have been tampered with.

Let's keep all our gremlins, ghosts, and ghouls safe to enjoy another Halloween celebration next year.

Make Halloween a TREAT, not a TRICK!

